

Short View of Leukemia Diagnosis and Treatment in Iran

Mehdi Azad¹, Ramin Bakhshi Biniaz¹, Mehdi Goudarzi², Naser Mobarra³, Shaban Alizadeh⁴, Hajar Nasiri⁵, Ali Dehghani Fard⁶, Saeid Kaviani⁷, Mohamad Hossein Moghadasi⁷, Mohammad Reza Sarookhani¹, Mousa Vatanmakan⁴, Mehdi Sahmani⁸

¹Department of Medical laboratory sciences, Faculty of Allied Medicine, Qazvin University of Medical Sciences, Qazvin, Iran

²Department of Microbiology, School of Medicine, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Science, Tehran, Iran

³Department of Biochemistry, Metabolic Disorders Research Center, School of Medicine, Golestan University of Medical Sciences, Gorgan, Iran

⁴Department of Hematology, Allied Medical School, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran

⁵Hematology-Oncology and Stem cell Transplantation Research Center, Tehran university of Medical Science, Tehran, Iran

⁶Sarem Cell Research Center, Sarem Women's Hospital, Tehran, Iran

⁷Department of Hematology, School of Medical Sciences, Tarbiat Modares University, Tehran, Iran

⁸Department of Clinical Biochemistry, Cellular and Molecular Research Center, Qazvin University of Medical Sciences, Qazvin, Iran

Corresponding Author: Mehdi Sahmani, PhD. Department of Clinical Biochemistry and Medical Genetics, Cellular and Molecular Research Center, Qazvin University of Medical Sciences, Qazvin, Iran

Tel: +982813336001

Fax: +982813419759811

E-mail: m.sahmani@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

Background: Early diagnosis and treatment of leukemia patients remains a fundamental aim in clinical oncology, especially in developing country. Present study highlights the basic requirements of these patients in Iran. Better understanding of these issues may lead to improve the healthcare standards toward leukemia diagnosis and treatment.

Methods: This descriptive study included 101 specialists in hematology-oncology and pathology serving in oncology centers. The participants were then asked to fill out a standard questionnaire on the issues around diagnosis and treatment of blood malignancies.

Results: According to specialists, unfair distribution of facilities across the country, delayed diagnosis of disease, absence of psychological support for patients, and insufficient financial support were the main reasons of inappropriate diagnosis and treatment in leukemia patients.

Conclusions: Our results show that making an amendment to health policies by preparing well-equipped medical centers in all provinces, improving the morale of patients through consultation during the process of treatment, and above all, subsidizing leukemia patients' financial problems will promote the health standard regarding the leukemia diagnosis and treatment in Iran.

KEYWORDS: Diagnosis, Treatment, Leukemia

INTRODUCTION

After cardiovascular diseases, cancers are the second most common cause of mortality in developed countries, and the third in underdeveloped countries. The significance of cancers as a major health problem has been revealed by the increasing incidence over the world by which the economic and psychological status of

families can be affected.¹ Statistically, the rate of cancers in Iran is increasing and it is much higher than standard levels.^{2,3} According to the Iranian Ministry of Health (2007), exclusively based on the report of Pathology Center, cancers of skin, breast, stomach, colorectal, liver, hematopoietic system, esophagus, prostate, lung, brain, and the central nervous system (CNS) are the most prevalent